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US Patent Application No.: 10/720,031  
Entitled: Methods and Systems for Managing Offers and Requests in a Network  
Filed: November 20, 2003  
Our Ref.: 61217-8010.US01

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Proposed points of discussion during the meeting include at least the following:

Gupta discloses 'nodes' that represent 'node objects'. The combination of nodes form a context tree where concepts evolve from a root node toward its node members, where each node member further specializes the concept. The nodes of Gupta are limited to representation of node objects that are 'concepts' per se and thus the nodes do not have varying 'types'. Applicant's claim 2 recites "determining an object type of the target referent (which can be a physical entity, a digital object, or an intangible entity (e.g., concept))" and identifying suitable "semantic object type" for representation of the target referent. Gupta has no need for this since each context tree represents a particular specialized concept where each node forms a hierarchical structure that represents the hierarchy between related concepts.

Similar reasoning can be applied to independent claim 29. However, the Examiner neglected to provide detailed analysis of the basis of rejection of claim 29 in view of Gupta and Kroenke. The Examiner applied the same line of reasoning of claim 2 to claim 29 even though the subject matter in claim 29 is different from that of claim 2.